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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DEVICE POSITIONING UTILIZING DISTRIBUTED TRANSCEIVERS WITH ARRAY PROCESSING**

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H04W 64/00 (2009.01)
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CPC **H04W 64/00** (2013.01); **H04W 24/02** (2013.01)

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CPC H04W 64/00; H04W 4/025; H04W 24/00; H04W 24/02
See application file for complete search history.

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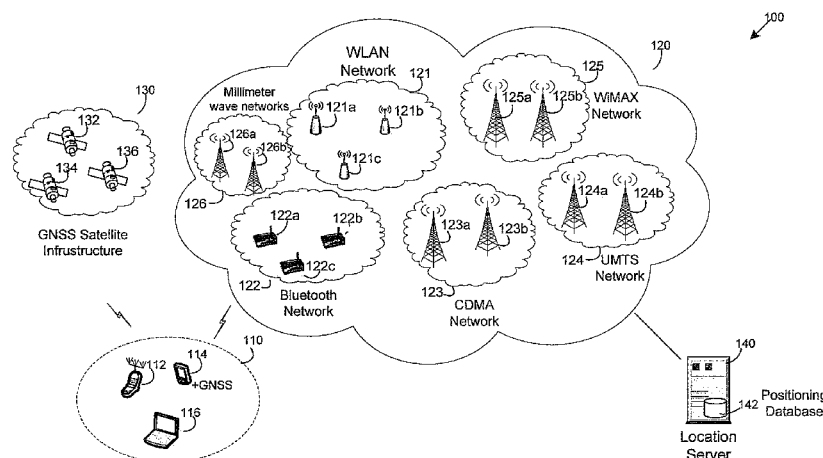
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A mobile device receives signals from base stations each with multiple distributed transceivers. Each distributed transceiver may operate at different carrier frequencies. Each distributed transceiver is equipped with an independently configurable antenna array handling transmissions of the radio frequency signals to the mobile device. The mobile device generates channel measurements for the received signals, and subsequently receives a position estimate from a remote location server. The location server determines corresponding transmit diversity configurations applied to the base stations for conducting the channel measurements for the mobile device, and channel measurements at scanned locations in a location scanning region. The location server selects and utilize a signature function to calculate the position estimate for the mobile device over the transmit diversity configurations. A multi-level positioning process may be performed by adopting various signature functions, subsets of transmit configurations and/or subspaces of the location scanning region for accurate device positioning.

21 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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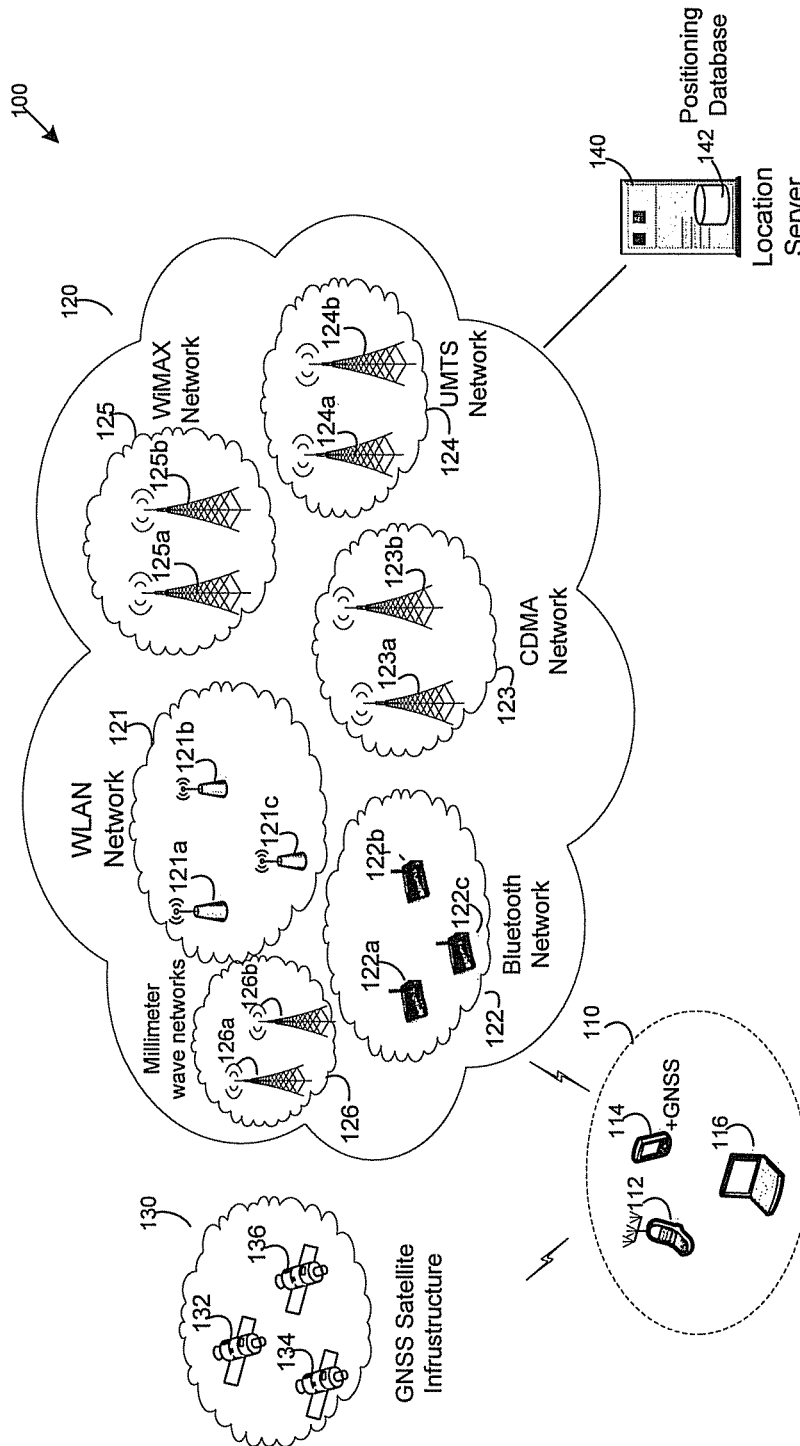


FIG. 1

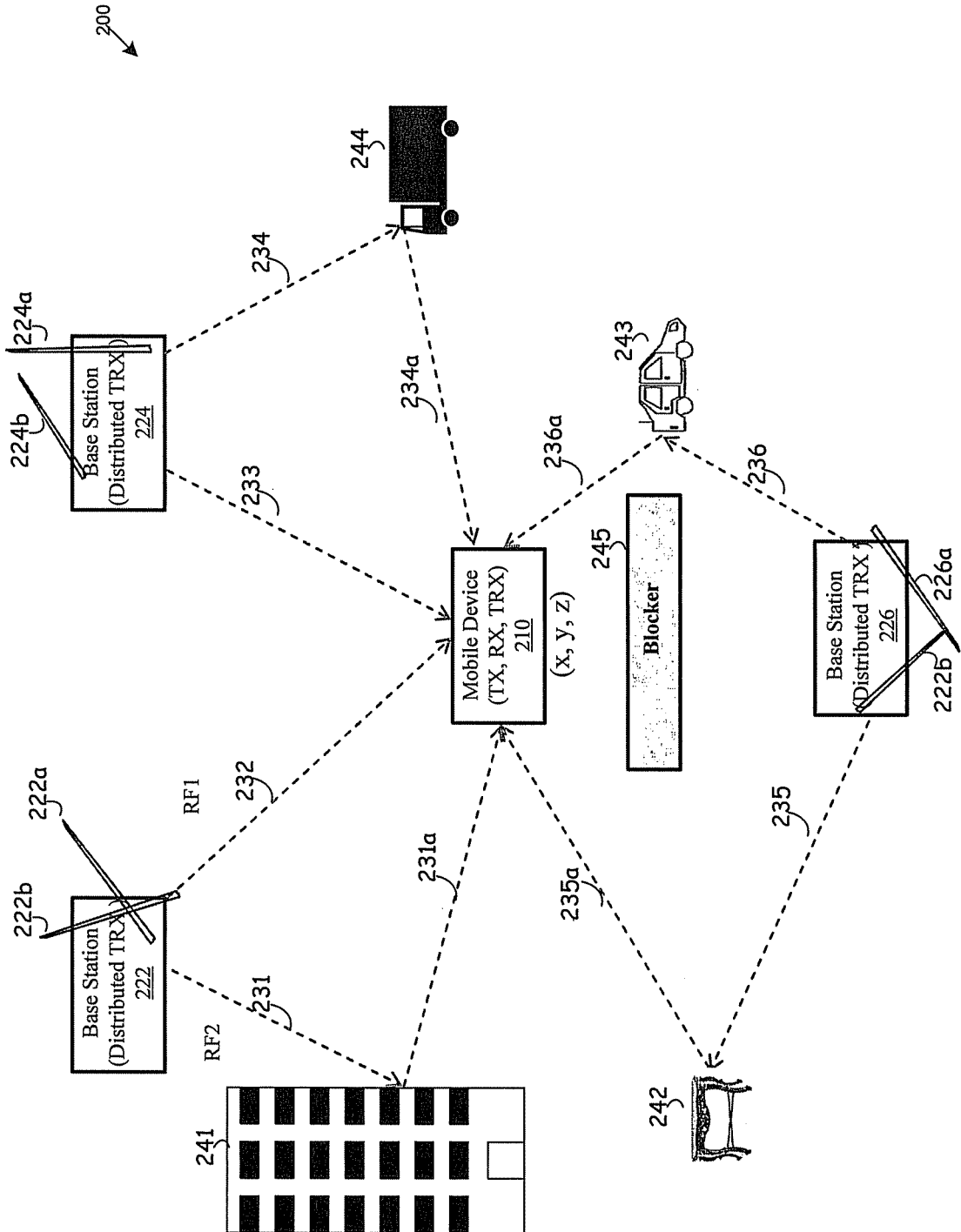


FIG. 2

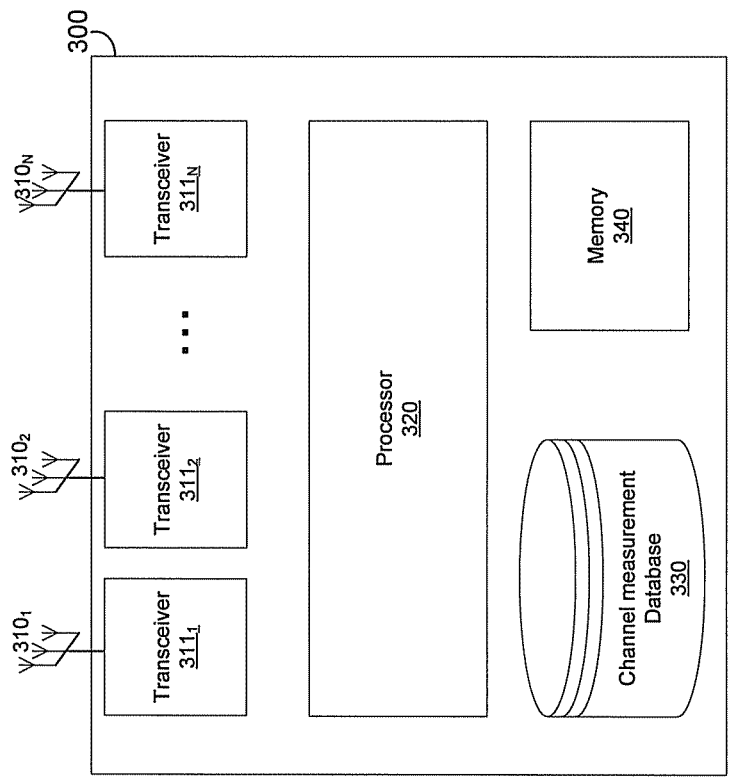


FIG. 3

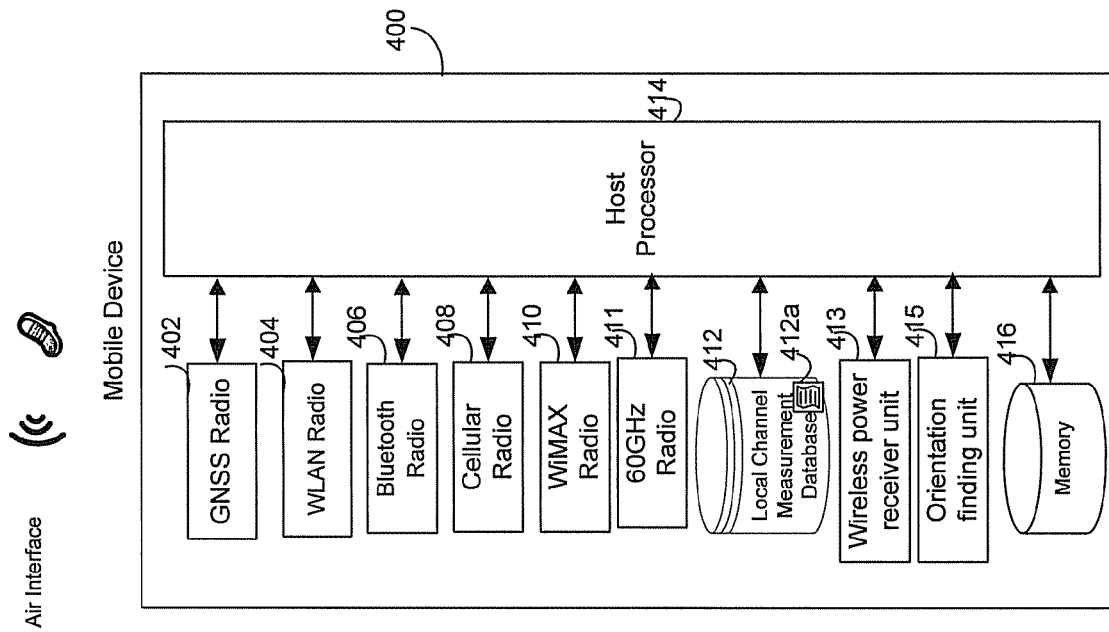


FIG. 4

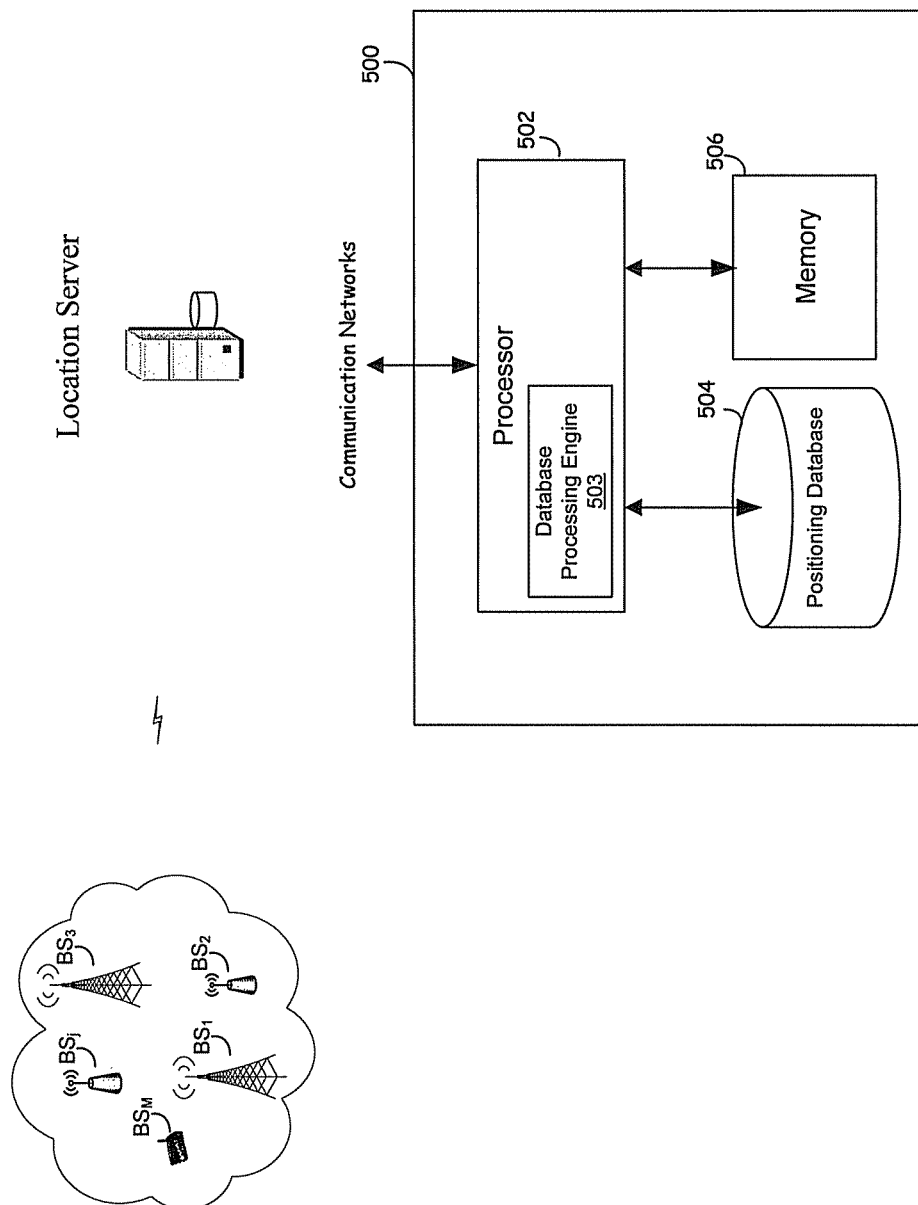


FIG. 5

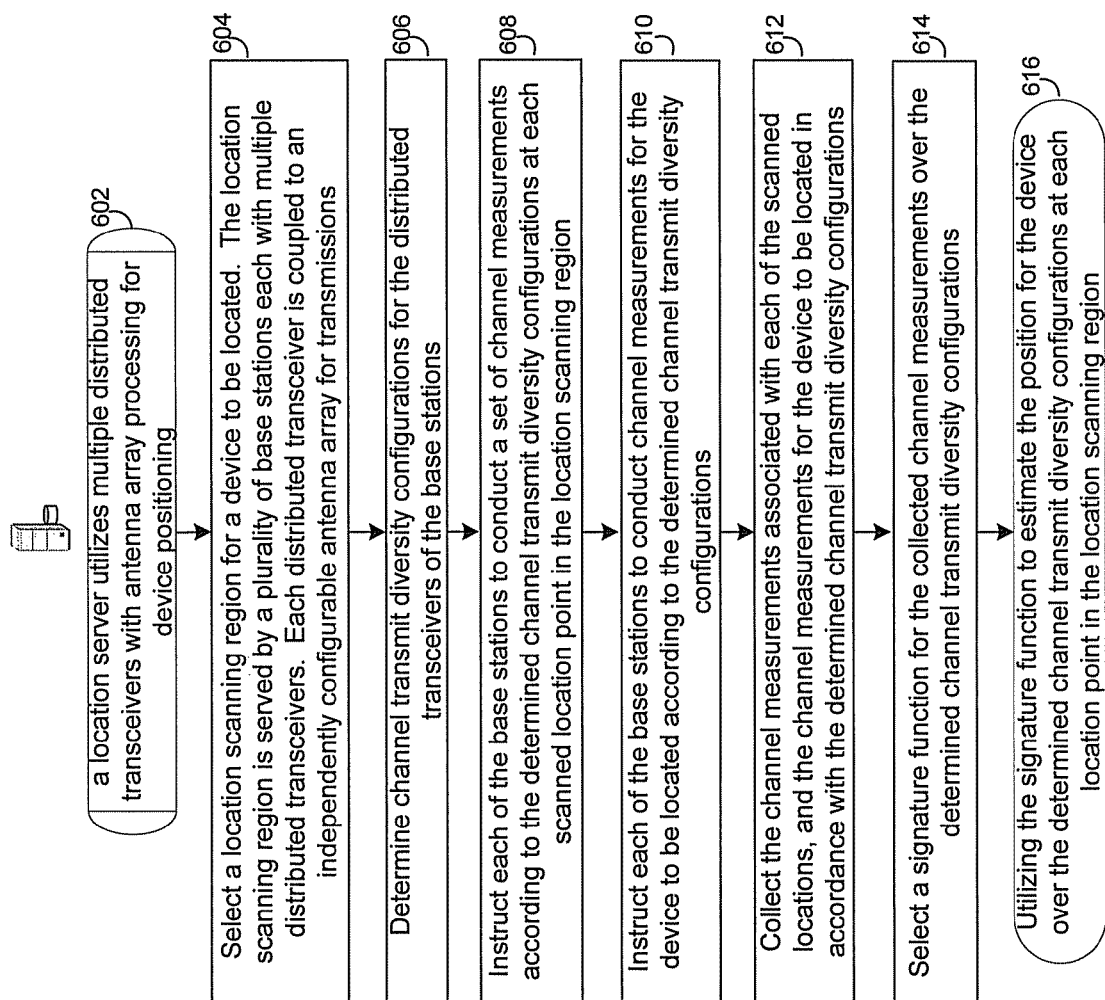


FIG. 6

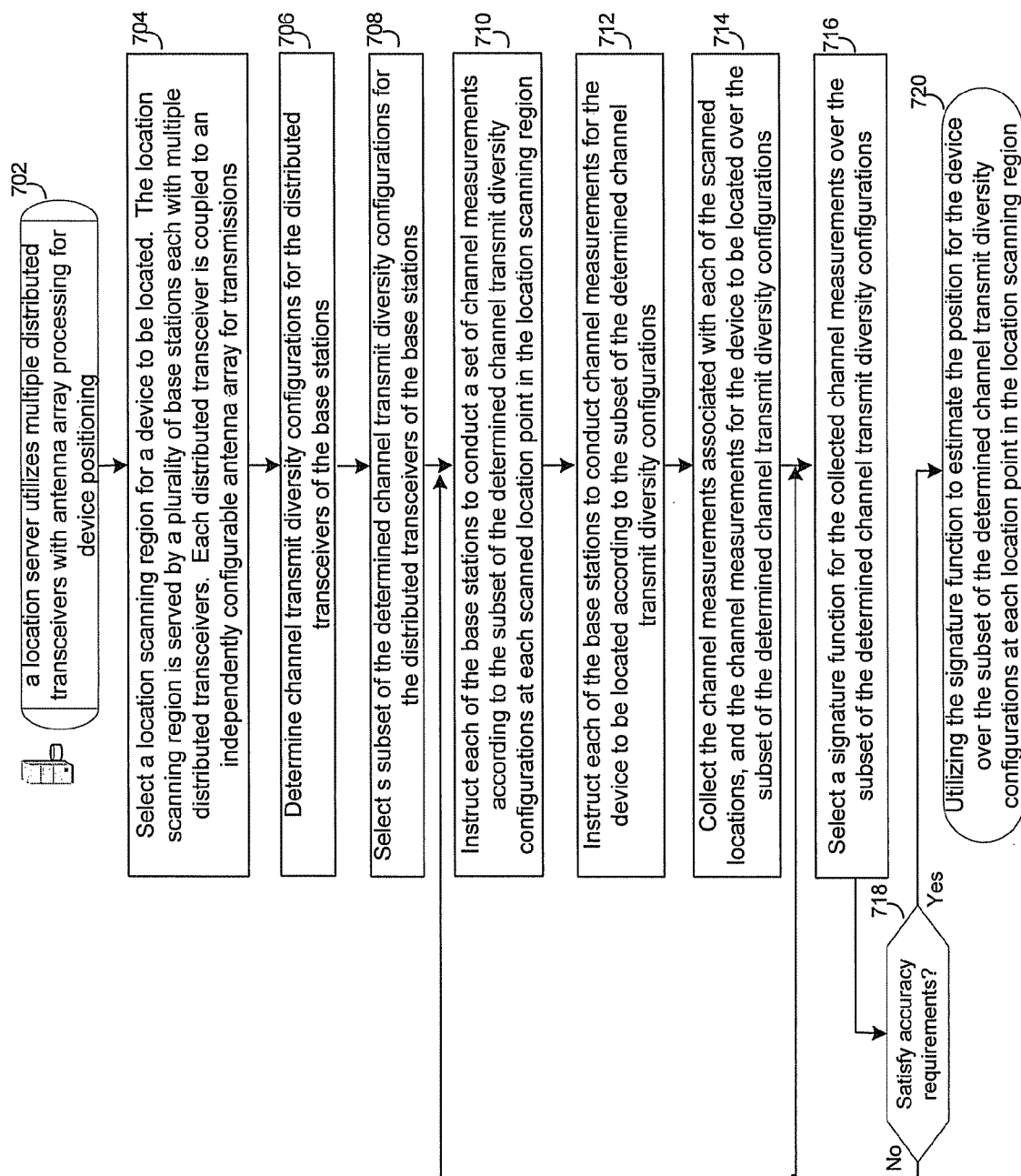


FIG. 7

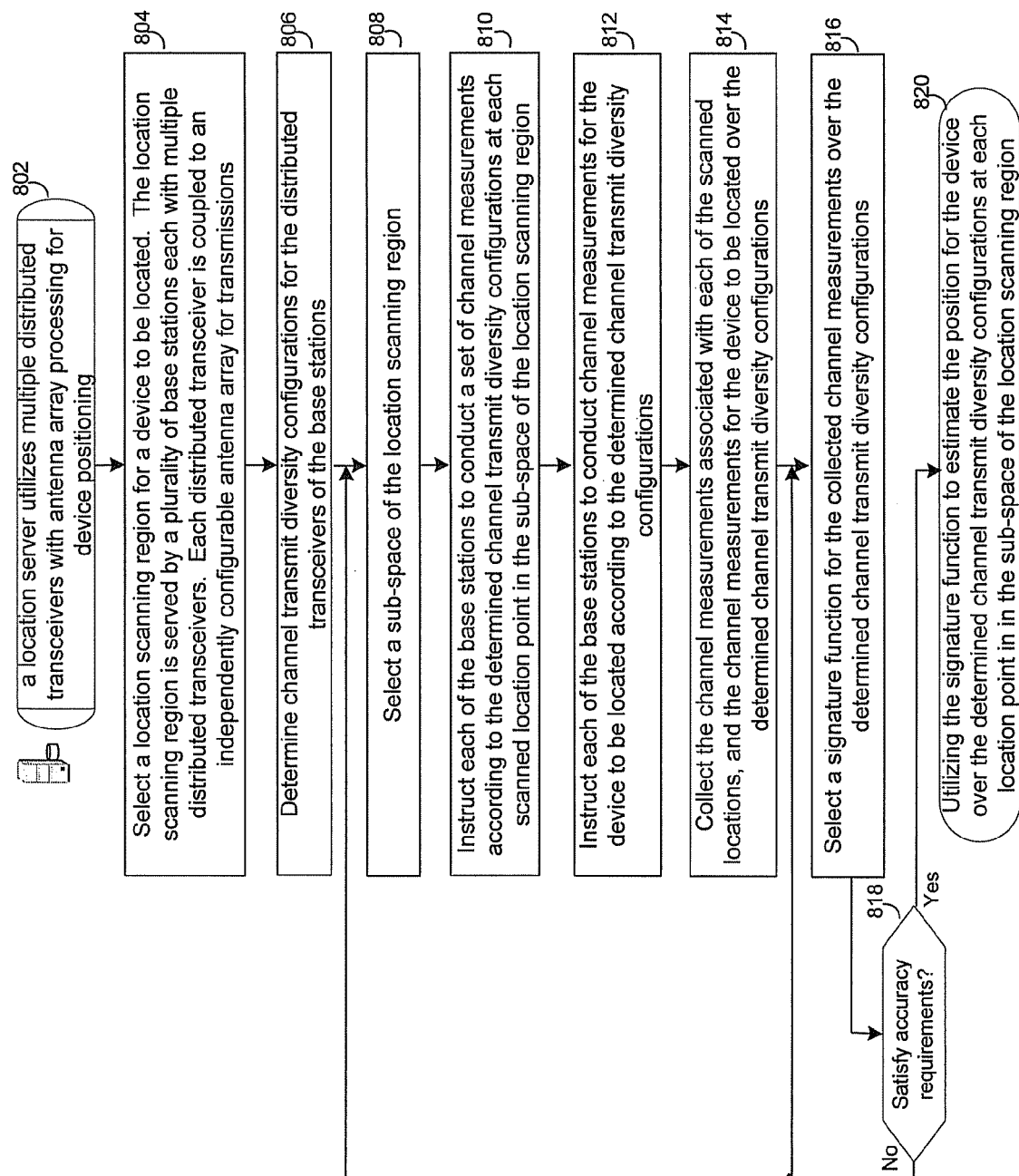


FIG. 8

1

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DEVICE POSITIONING UTILIZING DISTRIBUTED TRANSCIVERS WITH ARRAY PROCESSING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS/INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

This application is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/056,869, filed Oct. 17, 2013, now published as U.S. Patent Publication 2014/0045528. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/056,869 is a divisional application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/435,151 filed Mar. 30, 2012 now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,639,270. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/435,151, is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. application Ser. No. 12/852,443 filed on Aug. 6, 2010, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,314,736 U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/056,869, now published as U.S. Patent Publication 2014/0045528; U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/435,151, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,639,270; and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/852,443, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,314,736 are incorporated herein by reference.

Each of the above stated applications is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Certain embodiments of the invention relate to signal processing for communication systems. More specifically, certain embodiments of the invention relate to a method and system for device positioning utilizing distributed transceivers with array processing and database processing.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Location based services (LBSs) are emerging as a value-added service provided by mobile communication network. LBSs are mobile services in which the user location information is used in order to enable various LBS applications such as, for example, enhanced 911 (E-911) services. A position of a mobile device is determined in different ways such as, for example, using network-based technology, using terminal-based technology, and/or using hybrid technology (a combination of the former technologies). Many positioning technologies such as, for example, Cell of Origin (COO), Time of Arrival (TOA), Observed Time Difference of Arrival (OTDOA), Enhanced Observed Time Difference (E-OTD) as well as the satellite-based systems such as the global positioning system (GPS), or Assisted-GPS (A-GPS), are in place to estimate the location of the mobile device and convert it into a meaningful X, Y coordinate for LBS applications.

Further limitations and disadvantages of conventional and traditional approaches will become apparent to one of skill in the art, through comparison of such systems with some aspects of the present invention as set forth in the remainder of the present application with reference to the drawings.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A method and/or system for device positioning utilizing distributed transceivers with array processing and database processing, substantially as shown in and/or described in connection with at least one of the figures, as set forth more completely in the claims.

These and other advantages, aspects and novel features of the present invention, as well as details of an illustrated

2

embodiment thereof, will be more fully understood from the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary communication system that supports device positioning utilizing distributed transceivers with array processing, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 shows a typical usage scenario where three radio sites each with multiple distributed transceivers are utilized to estimate the position of a mobile device, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary base station that utilizes multiple distributed transceivers with array processing for device positioning, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary mobile device that is located utilizing a collection of distributed transceivers with array processing, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary location server that performs device positioning utilizing a signature-based positioning database, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating exemplary steps utilized by a location server to perform device positioning utilizing distributed transceivers with array processing, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating exemplary steps utilized by a location server to perform multi-level device positioning utilizing a subset of channel transmit diversity configurations, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating exemplary steps utilized by a location server to perform multi-level device positioning over a subset of a location scanning region, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Certain embodiments of the invention may be found in a method and system for device positioning utilizing distributed transceivers with array processing and database processing. In accordance with various exemplary embodiments of the invention, a mobile device in a multipath environment may be operable to receive direct line of sight and multipath radio frequency signals from one or more base stations each with multiple distributed transceivers. Each of the distributed transceivers may operate at different carrier frequencies. Each of the distributed transceivers may be equipped with an independently configurable antenna array handling transmissions or receptions of the radio frequency signals to/from the mobile device. In one embodiment, the distributed transceivers transmit a waveform and the mobile device performs the reception and propagation channel estimation. In another embodiment, the mobile device may transmit a waveform and each of the distributed transceivers may perform respective channel estimations. The mobile device may process the received signals to generate channel measurements for the received signals. A remote location server may be operable to locate the mobile device utilizing the channel measurements for the mobile device. In this regard, corresponding transmit diversity configurations may be determined by the location server. The corresponding transmit diversity configurations may be applied to the base stations for conducting the channel measurements for the mobile device, and channel measure-

ments at each scanned location in a location scanning region. The location server may calculate the position estimate for the mobile device over the location scanning region utilizing the channel measurements for the mobile device, the channel measurements at scanned locations, and corresponding transmit diversity configurations. A signature function for the channel measurements over the corresponding transmit diversity configurations may be selected by the location server. The location server may utilize the signature function to calculate the position estimate for the mobile device over the transmit diversity configurations. Depending on resolution of the signature function over the scanned locations in the location scanning region, a multi-level positioning process may be performed for highly accurate positioning. In this regard, the location server may utilize a different signature function, a subset of transmit configurations and/or a subspace of the location scanning region to update the position estimate for the mobile device.

FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary communication system that supports device positioning utilizing distributed transceivers with array processing, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 1, there is shown a communication system 100. The communication system 100 comprises a plurality of multi-radio mobile devices, of which multi-radio mobile devices 112-116 are illustrated, a heterogeneous network system 120, a Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) satellite infrastructure 130, and a location server 140 comprising a reference database 142. The heterogeneous network system 120 comprises a plurality of different radio access networks, of which a WLAN network 121, a Bluetooth network 122, a CDMA network 123, a UMTS network 124, a WiMAX network 125, and millimeter wave networks 126 are illustrated.

The multi-radio mobile devices 112-116 may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that are operable to communicate radio frequency signals with a plurality of mobile communication networks such as, for example, the WLAN network 121, the Bluetooth network 122, the CDMA network 123, the UMTS network 124, the WiMAX network 125, and/or the mmWave networks 126. Depending on device capabilities and user preferences, a multi-radio mobile device such as the multi-radio mobile device 112 may utilize or enable one or more radios such as a WLAN radio and a cellular radio to communicate with radio sites in radio access networks to receive signals of a desired service. Radio sites, as used herein, of a specific radio access network may comprise one or more base stations or access points. Radios such as a millimeter Wave (mmWave), a WLAN, WiMax, Bluetooth, Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), or other types of radios may be utilized to receive radio frequency signals for the desired service over radio channels. In this regard, radios such as mmWave radios may be utilized at very high carrier frequencies for high throughput wireless communications. For example, various standards organization such as, for example, the 60 GHz wireless standard, WirelessHD, WiGig, and WiFi IEEE 802.11ad, are using high frequencies such as the 60 GHz frequency spectrum for high throughput wireless communications. The 60 GHz spectrum band may also be used for unlicensed short-range data links such as 1.7 km with data throughputs up to 6 Gbits/s.

In mobile communication, a radio channel may be characterized by multipath reception, which refers to receiving not only direct line-of-sight (LOS) radio waves, but also a number of reflected radio waves, that is non-LOS radio waves. With multi-radio capability, the multi-radio mobile device 112 may be operable to receive signals from a set of radio sites such as the base stations 123a and the WLAN AP 121a. In an

embodiment of the invention, the multi-radio mobile device 112 may be operable to perform both non-LOS measurements and LOS measurements over signals received from a selected radio site such as the base station 123a. Depending on device capabilities, the multi-radio mobile device 112 may be configured to derive or determine propagation channel responses or received signal strength indicators (RSSIs) utilizing the LOS measurements and the non-LOS measurements for the received signals.

In an embodiment of the invention, the multi-radio mobile device 112 may be operable to create or form channel measurements for corresponding signals received from selected radio sites such as the base station 123a. In this regard, the channel measurements for the signals received from the base station 123a may be either the propagation channel responses or RSSIs. In instances where the base station 123a is utilized to determine or estimate the position for the multi-radio mobile device 112, the corresponding channel measurements may be uploaded or communicated to the location server 140 via the heterogeneous network system 120. For example, the uploaded channel measurements may be combined over multiple transceivers of the base station 123a to create a channel signature with higher channel resolution characteristic. A so-called channel signature is referred to as a channel transfer function or simply a channel. U.S. application Ser. No. 12/852,443 filed on Aug. 6, 2010, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,314,736; provides detailed descriptions relates to identifying or determining channel characteristics for received signals at a given location utilizing various means, each of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

In other embodiments a mobile device such as the mobile device 116 may be operable to locate itself. For example, the mobile device 116 may receive its position from the location server 140 or computes its position itself. The mobile device 116 then may act as a moving base station and may generate channel estimations at its position for other mobile devices such as mobile device 112.

The heterogeneous network system 120 may comprise suitable devices, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that are operable to provide radio connections between a wireless mobile device such as the multi-radio mobile device 112 and appropriate wireless radio communication networks. Different radio access technologies may be utilized in the heterogeneous network system 120 to provide the multi-radio mobile device 112 with an access to a desired service.

The WLAN network 121 may comprise suitable devices, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that are operable to provide data services to wireless LAN enabled communication devices such as the multi-radio mobile device 112 using wireless LAN technology. Exemplary wireless LAN technology may comprise, for example, IEEE Standard 802.11, 802.11a, 802.11b, 802.11d, 802.11e, 802.11g, 802.11n, 802.11ac, 802.11v, and/or 802.11u. The WLAN network 121 comprises a plurality of WLAN access points such as WLAN access points (APs) 121a through 121c. The WLAN network 121 may be operable to communicate various data services such as a location-based service (LBS) over WLAN connections between the WLAN APs 121a through 121c and corresponding WLAN capable devices such as, for example, the multi-radio mobile device 112. In this regard, the WLAN APs 121a through 121c each may utilize multiple distributed transceivers to communicate with the multi-radio mobile device 112 over the WLAN connections. Transceivers of the WLAN AP 121a, for example, may be configured as distributed transceiver architecture. Each distributed transceiver for the WLAN APs 121a may be equipped with an antenna array. In this regard, each antenna array for the WLAN AP 121a may

5

be independently configured at a different and sufficiently uncorrelated direction to create several independent antenna arrays for accurately positioning of the multi-radio mobile device **112**.

The Bluetooth network **122** may comprise suitable devices, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that are operable to provide data services to various Bluetooth enabled mobile devices such as the multi-radio mobile device **112** using Bluetooth technology. Exemplary Bluetooth technology may comprise, for example, IEEE Standard IEEE 802.15 WPAN and/or IEEE 802.15.4. Other PAN technology such as Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) and ZigBee may also be utilized without deviating from the spirit and scope of the invention. The Bluetooth network **122** comprises a plurality of Bluetooth access points such as Bluetooth access points **122a** through **122c**. The Bluetooth network **122** may be operable to communicate various data services such as a location-based service (LBS) over Bluetooth connections between, for example, the multi-radio mobile device **112** and a Bluetooth access point (AP) such as the Bluetooth AP **122a**. In this regard, the Bluetooth APs **122a** through **122c** may each utilize multiple distributed transceivers to communicate with the multi-radio mobile device **112** over the Bluetooth connections. Transceivers of the Bluetooth AP **122a**, for example, may be configured as distributed transceiver architecture. Each distributed transceiver for the Bluetooth APs **122a** may be equipped with an antenna array. In this regard, each antenna array for the Bluetooth AP **122a** may be independently configured at a different and sufficiently uncorrelated direction to create several independent antenna arrays for accurately positioning of the multi-radio mobile device **112**.

The CDMA network **123** may comprise suitable devices, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that are operable to provide data services to various CDMA enabled mobile devices such as the multi-radio mobile device **112** using CDMA technology or variants thereof, for example, WCDMA. The CDMA network **123** comprises a plurality of base stations such as base stations **123a** through **123b**. The CDMA network **123** may be operable to communicate various data services such as a location-based service (LBS) over CDMA connections between, for example, the multi-radio mobile device **112** and a CDMA base station such as the base station **123a**. In this regard, the base stations **123a** through **123b** each may utilize multiple distributed transceivers to communicate with the multi-radio mobile device **112** over the CDMA connections. Transceivers of the base station **123a**, for example, may be configured as distributed transceiver architecture. Each distributed transceiver for the base station **123a** may be equipped with an antenna array. In this regard, each antenna array for the base station **123a** may be independently configured at a different and sufficiently uncorrelated direction to create several independent antenna arrays for accurately positioning of the multi-radio mobile device **112**.

The UMTS network **124** may comprise suitable devices, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that are operable to provide data services to various UMTS enabled mobile devices such as the multi-radio mobile device **112** using UMTS technology. The UMTS network **124** comprises a plurality of base stations such as base stations **124a** through **124b**. The UMTS network **124** may be operable to communicate various data services such as a location-based service (LBS) over UMTS connections between, for example, the multi-radio mobile device **112** and a UMTS base station such as the base station **124a**. In this regard, the base stations **124a** through **124b** each may utilize multiple distributed transceivers to communicate with the multi-radio mobile device **112** over the UMTS connections. Transceivers of the base station **124a**, for example,

6

may be configured as distributed transceiver architecture. Each distributed transceiver for the base station **124a** may be equipped with an antenna array. In this regard, each antenna array for the base station **124a** may be independently configured at a different and sufficiently uncorrelated direction to create several independent antenna arrays for accurately positioning of the multi-radio mobile device **112**.

The WiMAX network **125** may comprise suitable devices, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that are operable to provide data services to various WiMAX enabled mobile devices such as the multi-radio mobile device **112** using WiMAX technology. The WiMAX network **125** comprises a plurality of WiMAX base stations such as base stations **125a** through **125b**. The WiMAX network **125** may be operable to communicate various data services such as a location-based service (LBS) over WiMAX connections between, for example, the multi-radio mobile device **112** and a WiMAX base station such as the base station **125a**. In this regard, the base stations **125a** through **125b** may utilize each multiple distributed transceivers to communicate with the multi-radio mobile device **112** over the WiMAX connections. Transceivers of the base station **125a**, for example, may be configured as distributed transceiver architecture. Each distributed transceiver for the base station **125a** may be equipped with an antenna array. In this regard, each antenna array for the base station **125a** may be independently configured at a different and sufficiently uncorrelated direction to create several independent antenna arrays for accurately positioning of the multi-radio mobile device **112**.

The millimeter wave networks **126**, which may operate at the 60 GHz carrier frequency, may be used due to their efficient beamforming characteristics by using configurable antenna arrays and smaller size of antennas, and antenna arrays for the 60 GHz frequency range. The mmWave networks **126** may be implemented utilize wireless technology as defined in WiGig or IEEE 802.11ad standards. The mmWave networks **126** may comprise devices capable of operating according to the 60 GHz standards WiGig or IEEE 802.11ad or a proprietary non-standard 60 GHz protocol designed and optimized for positioning applications. Furthermore, base stations **126a** and **126b** in the millimeter wave networks **126** may deploy multiple transceivers each with a configurable or fixed antenna pattern.

The GNSS satellites **132** through **136** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry and/or code that may be operable to generate and broadcast satellite navigational information in suitable radio-frequency (RF) signals to various GNSS capable communication devices such as the multi-radio mobile device **114**. The broadcast satellite navigational information may be utilized to determine the position for the multi-radio mobile device **114**. In an embodiment of the invention, the determined position for the multi-radio mobile device **114** together with channel measurements available at the multi-radio mobile device **114** may be uploaded or communicated to the location server **140** for higher positioning resolution.

The location server **140** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to receive channel measurements from a plurality of users such as radio sites and/or mobile devices in the heterogeneous network system **120**. The received channel measurements may comprise propagation channel responses or RSSIs, and/or locations where the channel measurements are actually captured or detected.

The location server **140** may be operable to collect and/or retrieve channel measurements to build the positioning database **142**. For a base station that is selected and utilized to

determine or estimate the position for the multi-radio mobile device **112**, the location server **140** may combine the collected channel measurements over the transceivers of the selected base station, thereby creating a channel with higher resolution characteristic for the selected base station. The location server **140** may utilize channel signatures of selected base stations to estimate or determine the position for the multi-radio mobile device **112**. The location server **140** may provide the determined position via the heterogeneous network system **120** to the multi-radio mobile device **112** to support LBSs.

Although location server **140** is illustrated in FIG. **1** for wirelessly locate a mobile device utilizing channel measurements for the mobile device, the invention may not be so limited. Accordingly, one or more base stations with sufficient data processing capacity may be operable to locate the mobile device utilizing the channel measurements for the mobile device without departing from the spirit and scope of various embodiments of the invention.

In an exemplary operation, a device such as the multi-radio mobile device **114** may be operable to receive radio frequency signals from base stations such as the base stations **123a** and the WLAN AP **121a**. Each selected base station may be configured to utilize multiple distributed transceivers for communication with the multi-radio mobile device **114**. Each distributed transceiver for the selected base station may be equipped with an independently configurable antenna array that is operable to provide highly accurate device positioning. Channel measurements such as propagation channel responses or RSSIs may be determined utilizing the LOS measurements and the non-LOS measurements for the received signals from the selected radio site. The channel measurements may be uploaded or communicated to the location server **140** via the heterogeneous network system **120**. In certain instances, a base station may be selected and utilized to determine the position for the multi-radio mobile device **114**. In this regard, the location server **140** may be operable to combine the channel measurements over the transceivers of the selected base station to create a channel signature or transfer function with higher channel resolution characteristic. The channel signature of the selected base station may be utilized to estimate or determine the position for the multi-radio mobile device **114**. The location server **140** may provide the position estimate to the multi-radio mobile device **114** to support LBSs.

FIG. **2** shows a typical usage scenario where three radio sites each with multiple distributed transceivers are utilized to estimate the position of a mobile device, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. As shown, three base stations **222**, **224**, and **226** each with multiple distributed transceivers may be utilized to estimate or determine the position of a mobile device **210**. Each distributed transceiver for the base stations **222**, **224**, and **226** may be equipped with an independently configurable antenna array for highly accurate device positioning. For example, antenna arrays **222a** and **222b**, antenna arrays **224a** and **224b**, and antenna arrays **226a** and **226b**, are incorporated with the base stations **222**, **224**, and **226**, respectively. In this regard, the antenna arrays **222a** and **222b**, **224a** and **224b**, and **226a** and **226b** may be coordinated and may be arranged at a different and sufficiently uncorrelated direction to create several independent antenna arrays for accurate positioning of the mobile device **210**.

The mobile device **210** may comprise a cell phone, laptop, tablet computer, PDA, wireless headset, pager, digital/video camera, toy, electronic book reader, and/or CD/DVD/cassette/MP-3 players. In some embodiments, the mobile device **210** may be a battery-less tag that receives wireless power

through a wireless charger during the short periods of signal reception and channel estimation. The mobile device **210** may comprise multiple radios utilized to receive radio signals from the base stations **222**, **224**, and **226**. The mobile device **210** may comprise multiple transceivers each with an antenna array to receive radio signals from the base stations. In other embodiments the mobile device **210** may deploy distributed transceiver structure as well. In this case the channel measurements to one or all of transceivers within the mobile device **210** may be used for position matching. All or only the most suitable transceiver within the mobile device **210** may be selected for positioning. If the transceivers within the mobile device **210** deploy antenna arrays as well, then the device's orientation data, from an embedded compass, gyroscope, etc., for example, may take into account device's orientation in correlation channel measurements. With reflections from surrounding objects such as, for example, multipath reflectors **241** through **245**, the mobile device **210** may be operable to receive direct LOS radio waves over direct paths as well as reflected (multipath) radio waves wave (non-LOS radio waves) over multipaths. For example, the mobile device **210** placed at position 1 with coordinates of (x, y, z) may receive two direct LOS radio waves **232** and **233** from the base station **222** and the base station **224**, and four multipath radio waves **231a**, **234a**, **235a**, and **236a** caused by reflections from obstacles, the multipath reflectors **241** through **244**, respectively.

The reflectors **241-244** in FIG. **2** may be random natural reflectors in the environment that are exploited by the system for improved positioning. In another embodiment, high efficiency passive and/or active reflectors are installed in the environment for stronger and controlled multipaths for better positioning accuracy. In some embodiments, the installed reflectors' locations with respect to base stations are known and exploited for positioning. This positioning method, however, may be also applicable to situations where there are no reflectors present, because the channel measurements for the received signals are determined for LOS measurements as well as non-LOS measurements. In situations where the environment does not produce multipaths, however, time-delay triangulation positioning methods may also be used as an alternative, such as that described in "Method and system for determining the position of a mobile station", Mehran Moshfeghi, U.S. Application Ser. No. 61224347 filed on Jul. 9, 2009.

FIG. **3** is a diagram illustrating an exemplary base station that utilizes multiple distributed transceivers with array processing for device positioning, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. **3**, there is shown a base station **300**. The base station **300** comprises a plurality of transceivers **311₁**, **311₂**, . . . , **311_N**, a processor **320**, a channel measurement database **330**, and a memory **340**.

The transceivers **311₁**, **311₂**, . . . , **311_N** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to receive and/or transmit radio frequency signals from and/or to the multi-radio mobile devices **112-116** using air interface protocols specified in, for example, UMTS, GSM, LTE, WLAN, 60 GHz/mmWave, and/or WiMAX. The transceivers **311₁**, **311₂**, . . . , **311_N** may be configured as distributed transceiver architecture. Each of the distributed transceivers **311₁**, **311₂**, . . . , **311_N** may be equipped with a programmable antenna array or fixed directional antenna. For example, antenna arrays **310₁**, **310₂**, . . . , **310_N** are incorporated with the distributed transceivers **311₁**, **311₂**, . . . , **311_N**, respectively. The antenna arrays may be utilized for transmitting and/or receiving signals.

The antenna arrays $310_1, 310_2, \dots, 310_N$ may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to generate antenna beam patterns to form a plurality of beams. The plurality of beams may be arranged to orient in specific directions such as a direction towards an intended mobile device to be located. In an embodiment of the invention, each of the antenna arrays $310_1, 310_2, \dots, 310_N$ may be configured to utilize different antenna patterns and array configurations. For example, antenna patterns of the antenna array 310_1 may be arranged by adjusting phase array coefficients for the distributed transceiver 311_1 . In this regard, each of the antenna arrays $310_1, 310_2, \dots, 310_N$ may be arranged at a different and sufficiently uncorrelated direction so as to create several independent antenna arrays for accurate positioning of an intended device such as the multi-radio mobile device **112**. In an embodiment of the invention, each of the antenna arrays $310_1, 310_2, \dots, 310_N$ may be configured to be linear, planar, circular or hexagonal arrays so as to cover reflections in the multipath environment between the base station **300** and the multi-radio mobile device **112**. In addition, the antenna arrays $310_1, 310_2, \dots, 310_N$ may be arranged or configured to operate at different carrier frequencies f_1, \dots, f_K . The number of transceivers N , and number of carrier frequencies K , may vary depending on device capability and available resources. In general, the carrier frequencies f_1, \dots, f_K may include a few frequencies in the 900 MHz band such as Bluetooth, a few in the 2.4 GHz/5 GHz band such as WLAN, and a few in the 60 GHz band such as mmWave.

The processor **320** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to manage and/or control operations of associated device components such as the distributed transceivers $311_1, 311_2, \dots, 311_N$. The processor may generate training or pilot signals in the case that channel estimations may be performed at the mobile device. The processor **320** may perform the channel estimation in the case that the mobile device transmits the signal. The processor **320** may compile and analyze the database of collected measurements during scanning for partitioning them based on signature functions and achievable resolutions. The processor **320** may receive channel measurements reported from the multi-radio mobile device **112**, for example. The received channel measurements may comprise channel quality information such as propagation channel responses, RSSIs or channel quality indicator (CQI) derived or captured at the multi-radio mobile device **112**. The processor **320** may store the received channel measurements into the channel measurement database **330**. In an embodiment of the invention, the processor **320** may configure and/or adjust phase array coefficients $w_i, i=1, \dots, N$, for each of the distributed transceivers $311_1, 311_2, \dots, 311_N$ based on channel quality information provided from the multi-radio mobile device **112**. Each $w_i, i=1, \dots, N$ represents a vector that comprises the antenna coefficients used for each distributed transceiver. In this regard, the processor **320** may be operable to arrange or deploy the phase array coefficients $w_i, i=1, \dots, N$, to span and cover reflections in the multipath environment that create reasonably strong multipaths between the base station **300** and the multi-radio mobile device **112**. In an embodiment of the invention, the processor **320** may determine or select which of the distributed transceivers $311_1, 311_2, \dots, 311_N$ may be activated for transmissions to the multi-radio mobile device **112**. The processor **320** may place the activated distributed transceivers $311_1, 311_2, \dots, 311_N$ to operate at different frequencies f_1, \dots, f_K for transmissions to the multi-radio mobile device **112**.

The channel measurement database **330** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be

operable to store channel measurements supplied from associated mobile devices such as the mobile devices **112-116**. The stored channel measurements may be utilized to configure or adjust the distributed transceivers $311_1, 311_2, \dots, 311_N$ to various antenna patterns and array configurations. The channel measurement database **330** may be operable to manage and update the stored channel measurements whenever necessary. The updates may occur aperiodically or periodically. For example, the channel measurement database **330** may be utilized to refine the stored channel measurements based on information on corresponding antenna patterns and transmit array configurations.

The memory **340** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to store information such as executable instructions and data that may be utilized by the processor **320** and/or other associated component units such as, for example, the reference database **330**. The memory **340** may comprise RAM, ROM, low latency nonvolatile memory such as flash memory and/or other suitable electronic data storage.

In an exemplary operation, the processor **320** may be operable to control operations of, for example, the distributed transceivers $311_1, 311_2, \dots, 311_N$. The processor **320** may receive or collect channel measurements from users such as the multi-radio mobile device **112**. Phase array coefficients $w_i, i=1, \dots, N$, for each of the distributed transceivers $311_1, 311_2, \dots, 311_N$ may be configured or adjusted based on the channel measurements provided from the multi-radio mobile device **112**. In this regard, the phase array coefficients $w_i, i=1, \dots, N$, may be arranged to span and cover reflections in the multipath environment between the base station **300** and the multi-radio mobile device **112**. The distributed transceivers $311_1, 311_2, \dots, 311_N$ may be selectively activated for transmissions or receptions, at different frequencies f_1, \dots, f_K , for example, to the multi-radio mobile device **112** based on the channel measurements provided from the multi-radio mobile device **112**.

FIG. **4** is a diagram illustrating an exemplary mobile device that is located utilizing a collection of distributed transceivers with array processing, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. **4**, there is shown a multi-radio mobile device **400**. The multi-radio mobile device **400** comprises a GNSS radio **402**, a WLAN radio **404**, a Bluetooth radio **406**, a cellular radio **408**, a WiMAX radio **410**, a 60 GHz radio **411**, a local multipath database **412**, a wireless power receiver unit **413**, an orientation finding unit **415**, a host processor **414** and a memory **416**.

The GNSS radio **402** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to detect and receive GNSS signals from a plurality of visible GNSS satellites such as the GNSS satellite **132-136**. The GNSS radio **402** may be operable to utilize the received GNSS signals to calculate or determine navigation information such as a GNSS position and/or a velocity of the GNSS radio **402**. The calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402** may be provided to the host processor **414**, where it may be utilized to support location-based services. In instances where other radios such as the WLAN radio **404** and the cellular radio **408**, for example, are receiving corresponding RF signals at the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or at a known location, channel measurements for the received RF signals over the WLAN radio **404** and the cellular radio **408** may be location stamped utilizing the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or utilizing the known location.

The WLAN radio **404** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to receive and/or transmit radio frequency signals using wireless LAN

11

technology. The WLAN radio **404** may be operable to transmit and/or receive radio frequency (RF) signals over WLAN connections between the multi-radio mobile device **400** and a WLAN AP such as the WLAN AP **121a**. In instances where the WLAN radio **404**, at the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or at a known location, is receiving RF signals from the WLAN AP **121a**, channel measurements for the received RF signals over the WLAN radio **404** may be location stamped utilizing the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or utilizing the known location.

The Bluetooth radio **406** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to receive and/or transmit radio frequency signals using Bluetooth technology. The Bluetooth radio **406** may be operable to transmit and/or receive radio frequency (RF) signals over Bluetooth connections between the multi-radio mobile device **400** and a Bluetooth AP such as the Bluetooth AP **122a**. In instances where the Bluetooth radio **406**, at the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or at a known location, is receiving RF signals from the Bluetooth AP **122a**, channel measurements for the received RF signals over the Bluetooth radio **406** may be location stamped utilizing the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or utilizing the known location.

The cellular radio **408** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to receive and/or transmit radio frequency signals using various cellular technologies such as, for example, CDMA, UMTS, GSM and/or LTE. The cellular radio **408** may be operable to transmit and/or receive radio frequency (RF) signals over cellular radio connections between the multi-radio mobile device **400** and a cellular base station such as the base station **123a** in the CDMA network **123**. In instances where the cellular radio **408**, at the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or at a known location, is receiving RF signals from the base station **123a**, channel measurements for the received RF signals over the cellular radio **408** may be location stamped utilizing the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or utilizing the known location.

The WiMAX radio **410** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to receive and/or transmit radio frequency signals using WiMAX technology. The WiMAX radio **410** may be operable to transmit and/or receive radio frequency (RF) signals over WiMAX radio connections between the multi-radio mobile device **400** and a WiMAX base station such as the base station **125a** in the WiMAX network **125**. In instances where the WiMAX radio **410**, at the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or at a known location, is receiving RF signals from the base station **125a**, channel measurements for the received RF signals over the WiMAX radio **410** may be location stamped utilizing the calculated GNSS position of the GNSS radio **402**, or utilizing the known location.

The 60 GHz radio **411** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to receive and/or transmit radio frequency signals in a 60 GHz frequency band.

The local channel measurement database **412** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to record and store data related to local multipath environment information, which may comprise channel measurements, channel transmit diversity settings, and locations where the channel measurements are captured or determined. The channel transmit diversity settings may comprise information such as radio site identifier index, transceiver index, transceiver operating frequency, transmit antenna patterns and array configurations. The channel measurements may be

12

characterized by channel responses (channel strength and group delay), or RSSIs. The stored channel measurements may be provided to the corresponding radio sites such as the base station **300**. The provided channel measurements may be utilized by the base station **300** to configure the distributed transceivers **311₁**, **311₂**, . . . , **311_N**, and/or to adjust phase array coefficients so as to cover reflections in the multipath environment between the base station **300** and the multi-radio mobile device **400**. The channel measurements with corresponding channel transmit diversity settings may be uploaded or communicated to the location server **140** to build and/or refine the positioning database **142**. Content in the local channel measurement database **412** may be arranged or stored in a lookup table **412a**, for example. The local channel measurement database **412** may be updated or refined on an as needed basis, aperiodically or periodically.

The wireless power receiver unit **413** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to receive and/or collect power transmitted from wireless power transmitters. For example, the wireless power receiver unit **413** may comprise a low power receiver when it is a consumer product such as a mobile phone or battery, capable of receiving no more than 5 Watt from a wireless power transmitter.

The host processor **414** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to manage, coordinate and/or control operations of associated device component units such as, for example, the GNSS radio **402**, the cellular radio **408**, and/or the local channel measurement database **312**, depending on usages. For example, the host processor **414** may be operable to activate or deactivate one or more associated radios such as the GNSS radio **402** on an as needed basis in order to save power. Depending on device capabilities and user preferences, the host processor **414** may be operable to utilize or enable associated radios such as the WLAN radio **404** and the cellular radio **408** to receive signals for a desired service in a multipath environment. In this regard, the host processor **414** may process the received signals to determine or measure channel characteristics such as, for example, channel response or RSSIs, for the received signals. In an embodiment of the invention, the host processor **414** may be operable to provide or report channel measurements to the corresponding radio sites such as the base station **300**. The channel measurement report may be utilized by the base station **300** to configure the distributed transceivers **311₁**, **311₂** and **311_N** and/or to adjust phase array coefficients to cover reflections in the multipath environment between the base station **300** and the multi-radio mobile device **400**. In an embodiment of the invention, the host processor **414** may be operable to provide channel measurements from the local channel measurement database **412** to the location server **140** to build the positioning database **142** for higher positioning resolution.

The orientation finding unit **415** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to identify or find orientation information for the mobile device **400**. The orientation finding unit **415** may comprise a gyroscope and/or an accelerometer.

The memory **416** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to store information such as executable instructions and data that may be utilized by the host processor **414** and/or other associated component units such as, for example, the WLAN radio **404** and the Bluetooth radio **406**. The memory **416** may comprise RAM, ROM, low latency nonvolatile memory such as flash memory and/or other suitable electronic data storage.

13

In an exemplary operation, the host processor 414 may be operable to utilize associated radios such as the WLAN radio 404 and the WiMAX radio 410 to receive radio frequency signals from radio sites such as the WLAN AP 121a and the base station 125a, respectively. The host processor 414 may process or measure the received signals to determine channel characteristics such as, for example, channel response or RSSIs, for the received signals. The host processor 414 may communicate the channel measurements to the corresponding radio sites such as the base station 125a to adjust channel transmit diversity settings such as the configuration of antenna patterns and phase array coefficients for the distributed transceivers 311₁, 311₂ and 311_N. The host processor 414 may provide the channel measurements to the location server 140 to build and/or refine the positioning database 142.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary location server that performs device positioning utilizing a signature-based positioning database, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 5, there is shown a location server 500. The location server 500 comprises a processor 502, a positioning database 504 and a memory 506. The location server 500 may be a remote/separate server or integrated into one of the base stations.

The processor 502 may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to manage and/or control operations of the positioning database 504 and the memory 506. The processor 502 may be operable to communicate with the heterogeneous network system 120 to collect and/or retrieve channel measurements to build the positioning database 504 for device positioning. The processor 502 may comprise a database processing engine 503 responsible for coordination of database processing activities.

The database processing engine 503 may comprise, suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to handle or perform database processing for the location server 500. Assume that M base stations and/or APs, denoted as BS_j, j=1, . . . , M, are selected and utilized by the location server 500 to estimate the position (x,y,z) in a three dimensional (3D) Cartesian coordinate system for a device to be located, for example, the multi-radio mobile device 112. The base stations BS_j, j=1, . . . , M, may be configured to utilize a collection of N_j distributed transceivers i=1, . . . , N_j for transmissions to the device to be located. Each of the distributed transceivers i=1, . . . , N_j may be equipped with one of independently configurable antenna arrays, i=1, . . . , N_j. Each of the distributed transceivers i=1, . . . , N_j may be configured to operate at different carrier frequencies f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, . . . , f_{K_j,i}^j. Furthermore, assume w_{1,i}^j, . . . , w_{S_j,i}^j represent the phase array coefficients of the ith transceiver for the base stations BS_j, i=1, . . . , N_j, j=1, . . . , M. The phase array coefficients of w_{s,i}^j, s=1, . . . , S, may comprise a vector of a size equal to number of antenna elements deployed at the transceiver of the base station BS_j, where S represents the total number of array coefficients that are used/exercised at the base station for positioning. The set {j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j}, where, j=1, . . . , M; i=1, . . . , N_j; f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, . . . , f_{K_j,i}^j; w_{s,i}^j=w_{1,i}^j, . . . , w_{S_j,i}^j, comprises various transmit diversity settings for channels from the base stations BS_j, j=1, . . . , M, to the device to be located. The number of transceivers N_j and number of carrier frequencies K_j available for each of the base stations BS_j, j=1, . . . , M, may vary depending on system configuration.

In an embodiment of the invention, the database processing engine 503 may be operable to select or identify a location scanning region R_s for the device to be located. The database processing engine 503 may be operable to scan each location (x,y,z) within the location scanning region R_s. Corresponding channel measurements collected at each scanned location

14

may be utilized to estimate the position for the device to be located. In telecommunication, a radio channel may be characterized by channel strength and group delay (channel phase measurement). Signature-based channel measurements are referred to as channel measurements derived from channel signatures or transfer functions. Assume H{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j} represents signature-based channel measurements for the device to be located, and H₀{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j} represents signature-based channel measurements collected at each scanned location (x,y,z)∈R_s, where, j=1, . . . , M; i=1, . . . , N_j; f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, . . . , f_{K_j,i}^j; w_{s,i}^j=w_{1,i}^j, . . . , w_{S_j,i}^j. At each scanned location (x,y,z)∈R_s, the database processing engine 503 may be operable to instruct the base stations BS_j, j=1, . . . , M, to conduct or perform measuring a set of H₀{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j} over the transmit diversity configurations {j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j} during the scanning phase. Specifically, the signature-based channel measurements H₀{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j} depend on scanned locations (x,y,z)∈R_s. For example, at a specific scanned location (x',y',z')∈R_s, H₀{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j} corresponds to a set of channel measurements conducted over the transmit diversity configurations {j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j}, where, j=1, . . . , M; i=1, . . . , N_j; f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, . . . , f_{K_j,i}^j; w_{s,i}^j=w_{1,i}^j, . . . , w_{S_j,i}^j. In some embodiments, the transceivers at each base station may be configured according to the location server. Then the mobile device may perform the channel estimations and report them back to the location server or engine. In other embodiments, the mobile device may be instructed to transmit a signal while the transceivers at each base station are configured according to the location server and the base stations perform the channel estimations and report them back to the location server.

In an embodiment of the invention, the database processing engine 503 may be operable to define and utilize a signature function SF() to estimate or determine the position for the device to be located, for example, the multi-radio mobile device 112. In this regard, the signature function SF() may be defined or selected as a function of channel measurement for the device to be located, H{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j}, and channel measurements at each previously scanned location, H₀{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j}, over the transmit diversity configurations {j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j}. In other words, the signature function SF() may be expressed as SF(H{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j},H₀{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j}). The database processing engine 503 may calculate values of SF(H{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j},H₀{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j}) for measured set of H{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j} against each previously collected H₀{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j} over each scanned location in the location scanning region R_s. The position estimation for the device to be located may be calculated or determined utilizing the following expression:

$$(\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}) = \min_{(x,y,z) \in R_s} SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}) \quad (1)$$

where, j=1, . . . , M; i=1, . . . , N_j; f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, . . . , f_{K_j,i}^j; w_{s,i}^j=w_{1,i}^j, . . . , w_{S_j,i}^j, and (x, y, z) are scanned locations within the location scanning region R_s. The position estimation (x̂,ŷ,ẑ) resulting in the minimum signature function SF() is considered as the most likelihood location estimate for the device to be located, such like the multi-radio mobile device 112.

Depending on location accuracy requirements, the database processing engine 503 may be operable to coordinate with the positioning database 504 so as to optimize database processing. For example, the database processing engine 503 may be operable to calculate the signature function SF(H{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j},H₀{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j}), j=1, . . . , M; i=1, . . . , N_j; f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, . . . , f_{K_j,i}^j; w_{s,i}^j=w_{1,i}^j, . . . , w_{S_j,i}^j, and may repeat the calculation at possible position candidates p₁, . . . , p₁, for the

15

most likelihood location estimate ($\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$) for the device to be located. In an embodiment of the invention, several different signature functions $SF()$ may be defined and utilized depending on accuracy requirements, availability of antenna arrays, target location acquisition time, processing power consumption, and/or multipath environment or conditions. For example, a signature function $SF()$ with a sufficiently large gradient versus locations $(x, y, z) \in R_s$ may be selected or utilized for a low position estimation error. The slope of the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\})$ versus locations $(x, y, z) \in R_s$ may be considered as a measure of location resolution capability of the signature function $SF()$ definition and the positioning database 504. To quantify the location resolution and/or reliability at each $(x, y, z) \in R_s$ and for the signature function $SF()$ definition, the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\})$ in Equation (1) may be calculated by substituting $H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ with channel measurements at all the available scanned locations $(x, y, z) \in R_s$, and using $H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ as the channel measurement set for scanned location (x_+, y_+, z_+) in the region R_s . The gradient of the above calculated $SF()$ values versus the scanned locations $(x, y, z) \in R_s$ and around the location (x_+, y_+, z_+) may be utilized as an indication of resolution or accuracy for location estimation around the location (x_+, y_+, z_+) . A signature function $SF()$ may be defined utilizing metrics such as, for example, full channel response, RSSI, strongest multipath and/or angle of arrival (AoA), as following:

$$SF() = \sum \{ \|H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\} - H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}\|^2 \} \text{ over } \{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\} \quad (2)$$

corresponding to full channel response based signature function. In this case channel responses may be compared coherently which includes both amplitude and phase of channel measurements.

$$SF() = \sum \{ \|H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}\|^2 - \|H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}\|^2 \} \text{ over } \{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\} \quad (3)$$

corresponding to RSSI based signature function.

$$SF() = \sum \{ \max \|H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}\|^2 - \max \|H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}\|^2 \} \text{ over } \{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\} \quad (4)$$

corresponding to strongest-multipath based signature function.

$$SF() = AOA(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}, H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}) \text{ over } \{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\} \quad (5)$$

corresponding to angle-of-arrival based signature function. In the above equation (5), the $AOA()$ function may be utilized to calculate the angle-of-arrival difference between the channel measurements $H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ and $H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ in the cases where an antenna array at the receiver side may be available, that is, when the mobile device deploys an antenna array or when the base stations with antenna arrays are performing the channel measurements.

$$SF() = \sum \{ abs(TDOA(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}) - TDOA(H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\})) \} \text{ over } \{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\} \quad (6)$$

corresponding to time-difference-of-arrival (TDOA)-based signature function. In the above equation (6), the $TDOA()$ function may be utilized to calculate the time-difference between the arrival of received corresponding multipaths within measured channel responses $H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$. The above time-difference may be calculated as the difference between the first and second strongest paths within each channel response. In more general case, the time difference may be calculated between the first path and second, between the second and third, and so forth.

In all above descriptions, $\|\cdot\|^2$ is the Euclidean complex amplitude of a set of vectors (i.e., a matrix). In general, each

16

element of channel measurement (H, H_0) may be a complex number with phase and amplitude.

$$SF() = \sum \{ \|abs(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}) - abs(H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\})\|^2 \} \text{ over } \{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\} \quad (7)$$

where $abs()$ represents the magnitude function. Equation (7) corresponds to full channel response based signature function but the channel responses may be compared incoherently which includes only amplitude of channel measurements.

In the above signature function variations, a time-alignment process may be applied to channel response measurements collected during scanning and positioning phases. The purpose of this process is to align and compensate for differences between the timers of scanning device (used during scanning phase) and the mobile device (being located). In one configuration, the base stations are all considered synchronized in time. In this case, only a time-alignment between the scanning device and mobile device is required (base stations are synchronized in time). To implement this, a subset of channel response measurements may be used by the location server to estimate the timers' difference between the scanning and mobile devices. For example, the location server 500 analyzes a few of channel measurements corresponding to a subset of transmit diversity configurations. By evaluating the first/strongest arriving element of channel response (first multipath) between the scanning and location phases, the location server 500 may then align all the measured channel responses to compensate for such time or timers' difference. In another configuration where the base stations are not synchronized in time, the above time alignment is repeated and applied separately to channel measurements corresponding to every base station. Therefore, the time or timers' difference between the device and each base station is compensated or accounted for, separately.

In one embodiment, as a different method, the task of synchronizing measurements between the scanning and mobile devices may be combined into the signature function minimization criterion. In an exemplary operation, the $SF\{\}$ operation in equation (2) may be modified as follows:

$$SF() = \sum \{ \|H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}(t - \tau) - H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}(t)\|^2 \} \text{ over } \{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\} \quad (8)$$

where $H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}(t)$ represents the channel measurement (from scanning phase) in time domain and $H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}(t)$ represents the channel measurement (from mobile device being located). The parameter (τ) represents the time difference between the timers of scanning and mobile devices. In a joint optimization method, the above $SF\{\}$ is minimized over $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ and parameter (τ) . Therefore, the minimization process may find the best value for (τ) that may re-align the channel measurements to the best possible (hence minimizing the difference between $H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ and $H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$). Other $SF\{\}$ function may be similarly modified to include the above synchronization method.

In some embodiments related to $SF\{\}$ in equations (2)-(4), a "weighted sum" is used to combine the values corresponding to $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ configurations. In an exemplary operation, the location server 500 may utilize a set of scaling factors $\alpha\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ where these scaling factors model the relative reliability and contribution of the channel measurements per each transmit diversity configuration. For example, for j values corresponding to base stations that are identified to be closer to the mobile device (during coarse estimation), the corresponding α values would take a larger relative value. Similarly, for measurements corresponding to high carrier frequencies, larger scaling factors may be used when a small region is being scanned (since higher carrier frequencies pro-

vide better resolution over limited smaller regions). According to this embodiment, Equation (2) may be modified and used as follows:

$$SF() = \sum \{ \alpha \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \} \times \| H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \} - H_0 \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \} \|^2 \} \text{ over } \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \} \} \quad (2-b)$$

Equation (2-b) corresponds to a full channel response based signature function with unequal scaling factors.

It may be also possible to do channel measurement for the same frequency with different waveforms or modulations. For example, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi both may use the 2.4 GHz frequency spectrum. This is yet another dimension for channel measurements. The scaling factor α may also be applied to such channel measurements based on their reliability. For example, Bluetooth may be given a smaller weight compared to Wi-Fi.

In an embodiment of the invention, the location accuracy and position estimation error may be calculated for one or more subsets of the channel measurements at scanned locations $(x, y, z) \in R_s$, $H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}$, instead of using the entire parameter indices. For example, instead of using $H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}$ for the entire of $i=1, \dots, N_j$ within the base stations BS_j , $j=1, \dots, M$, the database processing engine 503 may utilize a subset or portion of $i=1, \dots, N_j$ transceivers for calculating signature function $SF(H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}, H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \})$ and consequently the location estimation resolution or error. The above process may be applied to various combinations to sort the positioning database 504 in terms of estimation resolution and error. In instances where it is identified that adding an element from the positioning database 504 to the channel measurements at scanned locations $(x, y, z) \in R_s$, $H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}$ used for $SF(H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}, H_0 \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \})$ calculation doesn't improve the resolution or accuracy above a target or programmable threshold, that element may be eliminated or removed from the set used for positioning around a particular location point such as $(x_+, y_+, z_+) \in R_s$. For example, assume using antenna phase array coefficients of $w_{s,i}^j$ doesn't improve the location accuracy or error by a programmable threshold, then the antenna phase array coefficients of $w_{s,i}^j$ may not be utilized for positioning the mobile device in region R_s to simplify the positioning and make the measurements collection faster. Similar filtering may be applied to other variables such as carrier frequencies used ($f_{k,i}^j$), base stations used (j), and transceivers used (i).

In an embodiment of the invention, a filtering method may be used to sort or reduce the number of required configurations. For example, consider a sub-region R'_s , the location server 500 may analyze all the measurements collected for this region during the scanning phase and identify the transmit diversity configurations that do not contribute substantially to the location accuracy in the region R'_s . For this task, the location server 500 may utilize the following procedure. First, the location server 500 may analyze the data collected from the scanning phase. Second, the location server 500 may take a single scanned location in the region R'_s . Say $(x_+, y_+, z_+) \in R'_s$. Next, the server 500 may calculate $SF(H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}, H_0 \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \})$ versus all scanned locations $(x, y, z) \in R'_s$ with respect to location $(x_+, y_+, z_+) \in R'_s$. In other words, $H_0 \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}$, corresponds to scanned channel measurements for location $(x_+, y_+, z_+) \in R'_s$ where $H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}$ corresponds to scanned channel measurements for all other locations in $(x, y, z) \in R'_s$. By definition, the $SF \{ \}$ values calculated will be minimum (i.e., zero) at location (x_+, y_+, z_+) and may gradually increase for points in $(x, y, z) \in R'_s$, as they are further from (x_+, y_+, z_+) . The slope of this increase may be a measure of location accuracy/resolution achievable around point (x_+, y_+, z_+) when $SF \{ \}$ is used and all configurations are utilized. The

above accuracy may be the best achievable with $SF \{ \}$ at location (x_+, y_+, z_+) or region R'_s when all collected configurations are deployed. The location server 500 may store the result of the above analysis as accuracy that is achievable with this specific $SF \{ \}$ and at region R'_s when all configurations $j=1, \dots, M$; $i=1, \dots, N_j$; $f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, \dots, f_{K_j,i}^j$; $w_{s,i}^j=w_{1,i}^j, \dots, w_{S_j,i}^j$ are utilized. In the next step, the location server 500 may repeat the above process except for a subset of configurations $j=1, \dots, M$; $i=1, \dots, N_j$; $f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, \dots, f_{K_j,i}^j$; $w_{s,i}^j=w_{1,i}^j, \dots, w_{S_j,i}^j$, and stores the accuracy for that particular subset of configurations. At the end of the above procedure, the location server 500 may have a table for each sub-region R'_s assigning achievable accuracy to each subset of $j=1, \dots, M$; $i=1, \dots, N_j$; $f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, \dots, f_{K_j,i}^j$; $w_{s,i}^j=w_{1,i}^j, \dots, w_{S_j,i}^j$ configurations. The location server 500 may then utilize the above table for deciding what subset of configurations to utilize when positioning a mobile device. For example, once the location server 500 determines that the mobile device is in the sub-region R'_s through some initial coarse estimation, the location server 500 may identify and use the matching table for that sub-region. Within the corresponding tables, the location server 500 then search for the desired accuracy requirements. The table may return a group of possible subsets of configurations that result in the required accuracy requirements. The location server 500 then picks the satisfying subset based on some other criterions (such as power consumption, number of measurements, number of base stations, etc.). For example, the location server 500 may pick the subset of configurations that has the least elements, which translates to the minimum number of channel measurements for the device (resulting in fastest or most efficient estimation process). The above process to create and populate the tables by the location server may be performed offline after the scanning measurements are collected so that the tables are readily available during the positioning of mobile devices.

In another embodiment, the above tables for each sub-region R'_s may be repeated for a variety of $SF \{ \}$ definitions. This may add an additional dimension to the tables; the $SF \{ \}$ definition. Consequently, for a desired location accuracy in the sub-region R'_s , the location server 500 may pick the subset of configurations and the $SF \{ \}$ based on other criterions such as minimizing the number of channel measurements.

In an embodiment of the invention, positioning configuration information may be stored by the database processing engine 503 for future use. The positioning configuration information may comprise various positioning filtering schemes or positioning scanning settings such as, for example, different $SF()$ definitions, $SF()$ accuracy or error associated with scanned locations $(x, y, z) \in R_s$ for different subsets of $\{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}$, elements that do not improve the $SF()$ accuracy/slope/error within a subset of $\{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}$ for different $SF()$ definitions, and different location scanning regions R_s . For example, using the stored positioning filtering schemes or positioning scanning settings, the number of antenna phase array coefficients of $w_{s,i}^j=w_{1,i}^j, \dots, w_{S_j,i}^j$ needed to conduct measurements of $H \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}$ and $H_0 \{ j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j \}$ may be greatly reduced. This may result in less number of measurements with minimal degradation in device positioning. In some cases, according to the stored positioning configuration information during database processing, the database processing engine 503 may utilize a limited number such as one of $w_{1,i}^j, \dots, w_{S_j,i}^j$ for the i^{th} transceiver within the base stations BS_j , $j=1, \dots, M$, for each scanned location point $(x, y, z) \in R_s$. For example, the single one of $w_{1,i}^j, \dots, w_{S_j,i}^j$ may correspond to the antenna phase coefficient

cients that create the best path or the best reflection from the i^{th} transceiver to the device being located such as the multi-radio mobile device 112.

In some instances, matching and/or minimizing a single unified SF() definition of measurement data, $H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ and $H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$, for the device to be located against the entire possible locations within the location scanning region R_s , may not yield a reliable or unique solution. Certain SF() definitions, however, may yield a very good resolution only over a subspace R'_s within the location scanning region R_s . A brute-force calculation and comparison of various SF() definitions against the entire locations within the location scanning region R_s may lead to multiple location estimates that correlate with the positioning database 504 with the minimum values of the corresponding SF() definitions in the location scanning region R_s , for the device to be located. In this regard, the variety of SF definitions that are available and applicable within the location scanning region R_s utilized in the positioning database 504 may be limited for device positioning.

In an embodiment of the invention, the database processing engine 503 may utilize or perform multi-level positioning for highly accurate positioning. In this regard, the database processing engine 503 may utilize a coarse positioning method such as a GPS-based positioning or coarse angle-of-arrival method to establish or select an initial estimate for the subspace R'_s the location scanning region R_s for the mobile device to be located. The subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$ corresponds to a boundary or range within the location scanning region R_s where location scanning may be performed effectively to locate the device to be located. Once subspace R'_s identified, the database processing engine 503 may estimate the position for the device to be located by matching or correlating measurement data, $H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ and $H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$, utilizing higher resolution SF() only in the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$, but not the entire location scanning region R_s . The resulting location estimation for the device to be located may be utilized to refine the selection of the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$, for example, by reducing choosing a smaller sized subspace $R''_s \subset R'_s \subset R_s$ for subsequent location estimate for the device to be located by using a different higher resolution SF() definition. In an embodiment of the invention, same set of scanned locations $(x,y,z) \in R_s$ may be re-visited for new set of channel transmit diversity configurations, $\{j,i,f_k^j,w_i^j\}$, and possible new SF() definitions for subsequent finer location estimation for the device to be located. The multi-level positioning process may be basically repeated until the resolution requirements are met.

In one embodiment, the same method and database is utilized to perform the coarse initial location estimation. The initial coarse estimation is achieved by using only a subset of transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_k^j,w_i^j\}$ and SF() that are identified to provide low positioning accuracy but full coverage over the region R_s . In an exemplary operation, the configurations with low carrier frequencies $f_{k,i}^j$ are selected for coarse initial positioning whereas configurations with higher carrier frequencies are used in next levels of positioning. In another exemplary operation, the base stations may have radio capability of operating at both WLAN channels (2.4 GHz and 5 GHz carrier frequencies) as well as mmWave channels (60 GHz carrier frequencies). This capability may be implemented through use of separate radios (one for WLAN operation and another for mmWave operation) or an integrated single radio covering all 2.4/5/60 GHz bands. In this case, configurations with $f_{k,i}^j$ around 2.4/5 GHz are used to estimate initial location of the mobile device. Such lower frequencies are expected to provide less resolution but cover a large region. Once this initial estimate is completed and a

finer region for the mobile device is estimated, configurations with $f_{k,i}^j$ around 60 GHz are used for higher resolution estimation in accordance to other embodiments.

The multi-level positioning process may enable the use of higher resolution SF() definitions as well as eliminating ambiguity in pinpointing location. For example, once a coarse location estimate within the location scanning region R_s is determined for the device to be located such as the multi-radio mobile device 112, the database processing engine 503 may look into the positioning database 504 for a subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$. The database processing engine 503 may specify or select a sub-set of channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ suitable for positioning within the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$. For example, given the location estimation accuracy target, the database processing engine 503 identifies or selects only a set of two base stations, for example, BS_1 and BS_3 , which may be sufficient to provide a location estimate for the device to be located. Assume that within the base station BS_1 , the database processing engine 503 may choose the transceiver $i=2$ with antenna coefficients $w_{s=1,i=2}^{j=1}$ and $w_{s=2,i=2}^{j=1}$, choose the transceiver $i=4$ with antenna coefficients $w_{s=1,i=4}^{j=1}$ at carrier frequencies $f_{k=1,i=4}^{j=1}$ and $f_{k=2,i=4}^{j=1}$, and so forth. The base stations BS_1 and BS_3 may be instructed to conduct corresponding channel measurements either in parallel or sequential. Once the set of channel measurements $H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ are collected, then the database processing engine 503 may calculate the SF() against all location points within the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$ in the positioning database 504. The database processing engine 503 may consider the minimum value of the SF() calculated within the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$ as a final indicator for location estimate. The above process may be repeated or continued for finer resolution. For example, a subsequent location estimation may be used to define or select a smaller location scanning region R''_s , where $R''_s \subset R'_s \subset R_s$. In another example, the positioning database 504 may be re-visited for a new set of transmit diversity configurations and possible new SF() definitions for next finer location estimation.

The positioning database 504 may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to manage and/or store data comprising channel measurements $H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ learned from a plurality of associated radio sites such as base stations and/or APs. The contents in the positioning database 504 may be updated as needed, either aperiodically or periodically.

The memory 506 may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces and/or code that may be operable to store information comprising executable instructions, and configuration information, that may be utilized by the processor 502. The executable instructions may comprise algorithms that may be utilized to calculate location estimate for mobile devices using base stations with distributed transceivers through array processing. The memory 506 may comprise RAM, ROM, low latency nonvolatile memory such as flash memory and/or other suitable electronic data storage.

In an exemplary operation, the processor 502 may be operable to collect or track location related information of associated mobile devices to build the positioning database 504. Radio sites such as the base stations BS_j , $j=1, \dots, M$, each with $i=1, \dots, N_j$ distributed transceivers may be utilized by the database processing engine 503 for device positioning. In this regard, the database processing engine 503 may determine transmit diversity configurations and instruct the base stations BS_j , $j=1, \dots, M$, to conduct corresponding channel measurements. Various SF() definitions such as full channel response-based SF() definition may be selected for the channel measurements over a location scanning region R_s . A

multi-level positioning process may be performed utilizing the positioning database 504 for highly accurate positioning.

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating exemplary steps utilized by a location server to perform device positioning utilizing distributed transceivers with array processing, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 6, in step 602, a location server 500 utilizes multiple distributed transceivers with antenna array processing for device positioning. The exemplary steps start with step 604, where the database processing engine 503 may be operable to select a location scanning region R_s for a device to be located, for example, the multi-radio mobile device 112. The location scanning region R_s for the device to be located may be selected or identified utilizing various coarse positioning methods such as a GPS-based positioning method or a coarse angle-of-arrival based positioning. The location scanning region R_s is covered or served by a plurality of base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$, each with multiple distributed transceivers, $i=1, \dots, N_j$. Each of the N_j distributed transceivers for the base station BS_j may be equipped with an independently configurable antenna array. Each of the N_j distributed transceivers may operate at different carrier frequencies $f_{k,i}^j = f_{1,i}^j, \dots, f_{K_j,i}^j$.

In step 606, the database processing engine 503 may be operable to determine channel transmit diversity configurations, $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ for the distributed transceivers of the base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$. The determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ may comprise various channel transmit settings such as, for example, radio site identifier index, transceiver index, transceiver operating frequency, and transmit antenna patterns (array coefficients) and array configurations.

In step 608, during the scanning phase, the processor 502 may instruct or signal each of the base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$, to conduct a set of channel measurements $H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ according to the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ at each scanned location point in the location scanning region R_s . In step 610, during the positioning phase, the processor 502 may instruct each of the base stations to conduct channel measurements for the mobile device to be located according to the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$. In step 612, the processor 502 may be operable to retrieve the channel measurements associated with each of the scanned locations in the location scanning region R_s , and the channel measurements for the device to be located in accordance with the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$. In step 614, the database processing engine 503 may select a signature function $SF()$ for the collected channel measurements, $H\{\}$ and the scanning phase channel measurements $H_0\{\}$, over the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$. In this regard, the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\})$ may be defined utilizing various metrics such as, for example, full channel response, RSSI, strongest multipath and/or angle of arrival (AoA), as presented in equations (2) through (5). In step 616, the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\})$ may be utilized to estimate the position for the device over the determined transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ at each scanned location point in the location scanning region R_s .

FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating exemplary steps utilized by a location server to perform multi-level device positioning utilizing a subset of channel transmit diversity configurations, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 7, in step 702, a location server 500 utilizes multiple distributed transceivers with antenna array processing

for device positioning. The exemplary steps start with step 704, where the database processing engine 503 may be operable to select a location scanning region R_s for a device to be located, for example, the multi-radio mobile device 112. The location scanning region R_s for the device to be located may be selected or identified utilizing various coarse positioning methods such as a GPS-based positioning method or coarse WLAN-based positioning method. The location scanning region R_s is covered or served by a plurality of base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$, each with multiple distributed transceivers, $i=1, \dots, N_j$. Each of the N_j distributed transceivers for the base station BS_j may be equipped with an independently configurable antenna array. Each of the N_j distributed transceivers may operate at different carrier frequencies $f_{k,i}^j = f_{1,i}^j, \dots, f_{K_j,i}^j$.

In step 706, the database processing engine 503 may be operable to determine channel transmit diversity configurations, $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$, for the distributed transceivers of the base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$. The determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ may comprise various channel transmit settings such as, for example, radio site identifier index, transceiver index, transceiver operating frequency, and transmit antenna patterns and array configurations. In step 708, the database processing engine 503 may select a subset of the determined channel transmit diversity configurations for the distributed transceivers of the base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$. For example, a subset or portion of $i=1, \dots, N_j$ transceivers and/or carrier frequencies $f_{k,i}^j = f_{1,i}^j, \dots, f_{K_j,i}^j$ may be selected to be used for conducting channel measurements $H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ instead of using the entire parameter indices. This sub-set selection may or may not be considered during the positioning of the mobile device (i.e., location estimation phase). During the scanning, all available transmit diversity configurations may be programmed and all corresponding channel measurements may be collected into the server database.

In step 710, the processor 502 may instruct or signal each of the base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$, to conduct a set of channel measurements $H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ according to the subset of the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$ at each scanned location point in the location scanning region R_s . Step 710 may be bypassed in order to keep the scanning phase measurements as complete as possible. In step 712, the processor 502 may instruct each of the base stations to conduct channel measurements for the mobile device to be located according to the subset of the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$. In step 714, the processor 502 may be operable to collect or retrieve the channel measurements associated with each of the scanned locations in the location scanning region R_s , and the channel measurements for the device to be located in accordance with the subset of the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$.

In step 716, the database processing engine 503 may select a signature function $SF()$, which may vary from iteration to iteration based on: accuracy resolution from previous iteration, target resolution accuracy, and the updated region of the mobile device, for the collected channel measurements, $H\{\}$ and $H_0\{\}$, over the subset of the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}$. In this regard, the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\})$ may be defined utilizing various metrics such as, for example, full channel response, RSSI, strongest multipath and/or angle of arrival (AoA), as presented in equations (2) through (5). In step 718, the database processing engine 503 may check or evaluate resolution capability of the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}^j, w_{s,i}^j\})$ by calculating the slop

23

or the gradient of the signature function $SP(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ versus each of the scanned locations in the location scanning region R_s . In instances where the resolution capability of the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ satisfies a particular accuracy requirement, then the exemplary steps continue in step 720, where the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ may be utilized to estimate the position for the device to be located over the subset of the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ at each scanned location point in the location scanning region R_s .

In step 718, in instances where the resolution capability of the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ does not satisfy the accuracy requirements, then the exemplary steps continue in step 710 and/or in step 716 depending on system configuration. In this regard, the resolution capability of the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ may be improved by selecting a different signature function $SF()$ and/or selecting a different subset of the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ to repeat the database processing until the accuracy requirements are met.

FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating exemplary steps utilized by a location server to perform multi-level device positioning over a subset of a location scanning region, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 8, in step 802, a location server 500 utilizes multiple distributed transceivers with antenna array processing for device positioning. The exemplary steps start with step 804, where the database processing engine 503 may be operable to select a location scanning region R_s for a device to be located, for example, the multi-radio mobile device 112. The location scanning region R_s for the device to be located may be selected or identified utilizing various coarse positioning methods such as a GPS-based or WLAN-based positioning method. The location scanning region R_s is covered or served by a plurality of base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$, each with multiple distributed transceivers, $i=1, \dots, N_j$. Each of the N_j distributed transceivers for the base station BS_j may be equipped with an independently configurable antenna array. Each of the N_j distributed transceivers may operate at different carrier frequencies $f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, \dots, f_{K_j,i}^j$.

In step 806, the database processing engine 503 may be operable to determine channel transmit diversity configurations, $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$, for the distributed transceivers of the base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$. The determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ may comprise various channel transmit settings such as, for example, radio site identifier index, transceiver index, transceiver operating frequency, and transmit antenna patterns and array configurations. In step 808, the database processing engine 503 may select a subspace R'_s of the location scanning region R_s . For example, a set of particular location points away from the boundaries of the location scanning region R_s may be selected to form the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$. In one embodiment, step 808 may be bypassed as the scanning phase is conducted for the entire region of interest.

In step 810, the processor 502 may instruct or signal each of the base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$, to conduct a set of channel measurements $H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ according to the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ at each scanned location point in the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$. In step 812, the processor 502 may instruct each of the base stations to conduct channel measurements for the device to be located according to the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$. In step 814, the processor 502 may be operable to collect or retrieve the

24

channel measurements associated with each of the scanned locations in the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$, and the channel measurements for the device to be located in accordance with the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$.

In step 816, the database processing engine 503 may select a signature function $SF()$ for the collected channel measurements, $H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ and $H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$, over the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$. In this regard, the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ may be defined utilizing various metrics such as, for example, full channel response, RSSI, strongest multipath and/or angle of arrival (AoA), as presented in equations (2) through (5). The choice of $SF\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ may vary from one iteration to next depending on the updated estimate of region R''_s of the mobile device and target location resolution. As the region R''_s gets finer and smaller over iterations, $SF\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ functions are selected that are more suitable for higher resolution but only work over a smaller region. In step 818, the database processing engine 503 may check or evaluate resolution capability of the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$, for example, by calculating the slope or the gradient of the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ versus each of the scanned locations in the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$. In instances where the resolution capability of the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ satisfies accuracy requirements, then the exemplary steps continue in step 820, where the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ may be utilized to estimate the position for the device over the determined channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}$ at each scanned location point in the subspace $R'_s \subset R_s$.

In step 818, in instances where the resolution capability of the signature function $SF(H\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\}, H_0\{j,i,f_{k,i}^j,w_{s,i}^j\})$ does not satisfy the accuracy requirements, then the exemplary steps continue in step 808. In step 808, the database processing engine 503 may select a different subspace R'_s (finer and smaller than the previous one using the not-sufficiently-accurate location estimate from this iteration) of the location scanning region R_s . For example, $R''_s \subset R'_s \subset R_s$ may be selected and the database processing may be repeated until the accuracy requirements are met.

Aspects of a method and system for device positioning utilizing distributed transceivers with array processing and database processing are provided. In accordance with various exemplary embodiments of the invention, as described with respect to FIG. 1 through FIG. 8, a mobile communication device such as the multi-radio mobile device 400 in a multipath environment 200 may be operable to multipath receive radio frequency signals from one or more radio sites such as the base stations $BS_j, j=1, \dots, M$, each with multiple distributed transceivers, $i=1, \dots, N_j$. Each of the distributed transceivers $i=1, \dots, N_j$ may be configured to operate at different carrier frequencies $f_{k,i}^j=f_{1,i}^j, \dots, f_{K_j,i}^j$. Each of the N_j distributed transceivers for the base station BS_j be equipped with an independently configurable antenna array for transmitting the radio frequency signals to the multi-radio mobile device 400, where, represent the phase array coefficients of the transceiver for the base stations $BS_j, i=1, \dots, N_j; j=1, \dots, M$.

The host processor 414 of the multi-radio mobile device 400 may process the received signals to generate channel measurements such as, for example, channel response or RSSIs, for the received signals. A remote location server such as the location server 500 may be operable to locate the multi-radio mobile device 400 utilizing the channel measurements for the multi-radio mobile device 400. In this regard, corresponding transmit diversity configurations may be

25

determined by the location server **500**. The corresponding transmit diversity configurations may be applied to the base stations BS_j , $j=1, \dots, M$, for conducting the channel measurements for the multi-radio mobile device **400**, and channel measurements at each scanned location in the location scanning region R_s . The position estimate for the multi-radio mobile device **400** may be calculated by the location server **500** over the location scanning region R_s utilizing the channel measurements for the multi-radio mobile device **400**, the channel measurements at scanned locations, and corresponding transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}$, which comprise base station identifier index, transceiver index, transceiver operating frequency, and transmit antenna patterns and array configurations for each of the base stations utilized for positioning the multi-radio mobile device **400**.

In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the location server **500** may select a signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\})$ for the channel measurements for the multi-radio mobile device **400**, and the channel measurements with the scanned locations over the corresponding transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}$. The signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\})$ may be defined utilizing various metrics such as, for example, full channel response, RSSI, strongest multipath and/or angle of arrival (AoA), as presented in equations (2) through (5). The location server **500** may utilize the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\})$ to calculate or determine the position estimate $(\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z})$ for the multi-radio mobile device **400** over the transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}$. Depending on resolution of the signature function $SF()$ over the scanned locations in the location scanning region R_s , the location server **500** may perform multi-level positioning process for highly accurate positioning. In this regard, the database processing engine **503** may check resolution of the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\})$, for example, by calculating the slope or the gradient of the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\})$ versus each of the scanned locations in the location scanning region R_s . In instances where the resolution of the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\})$ does not satisfy the accuracy requirements, then the position estimate $(\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z})$ for the multi-radio mobile device **400** may be updated. For example, the database processing engine **503** may utilize a different signature function $SF()$ to calculate the updated position estimate $(\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z})$ for the multi-radio mobile device **400** over the transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}$.

In addition, a subset of the channel transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}$ and/or a subspace of the location scanning region R_s corresponding to higher resolution of the signature function $SF(H\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}, H_0\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\})$ may be identified or selected by the database processing engine **503**. To simplify the device positioning, the database processing engine **503** may select a subset of the transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}$ and/or a subspace of the location scanning region R_s over which the signature function $SF()$ yields a very good resolution. The database processing engine **503** may utilize the signature function $SF()$ to calculate the updated position estimate for the multi-radio mobile device **400** over the selected subset of the transmit diversity configurations $\{j, i, f_{k,i}, w_{s,i}\}$ and/or the scanned locations in the selected subspace of the location scanning region R_s . The multi-radio mobile device **400** may receive the updated position estimate from the database processing engine **503** to support LBSs.

In one embodiment, if strong stationary reflectors are identified in the environment or strong passive/active reflectors are installed in the environment with known locations (in

26

accordance to another embodiment), the location server **500** may choose antenna array coefficients $w_{1,i}, \dots, w_{s,i}$ for each base station and transceiver such that the resulting antenna beam patterns would point to the strong natural/installed reflectors in the room. In the case of installed reflectors, since the location of base station and location of reflectors are known by the location server **500**, the location server **500** may use that information to derive $w_{1,i}, \dots, w_{s,i}$ coefficients that results in strong multipath through a pointed antenna pattern between the base station and those strong reflectors. Multipaths that are caused by reflectors may create virtual transmitter base stations. For example, in FIG. 2, the base station **222** transmits radio waves **231**, which reflect from reflector **241** as **231a** and arrive at mobile device **210**. The multipath **231-231a** may be viewed as originating from a virtual base station, where the position of this virtual base station is the reflection of base station **222** on the wall of reflector **241**. This position intersects the straight line **231a** when line **231a** is extended backwards. Likewise, the reflectors **242**, **243**, and **244** may create virtual base stations. The greater the number of reflectors the greater is the number of virtual transmitters and that translates into a higher accuracy for the positioning method of this invention. This is in sharp contrast to conventional methods, where multipath propagation degrades system performance.

Other embodiments of the invention may provide a non-transitory computer readable medium and/or storage medium, and/or a non-transitory machine readable medium and/or storage medium, having stored thereon, a machine code and/or a computer program having at least one code section executable by a machine and/or a computer, thereby causing the machine and/or computer to perform the steps as described herein for device positioning utilizing distributed transceivers with array processing and database processing.

Accordingly, the present invention may be realized in hardware, software, or a combination of hardware and software. The present invention may be realized in a centralized fashion in at least one computer system, or in a distributed fashion where different elements are spread across several interconnected computer systems. Any kind of computer system or other apparatus adapted for carrying out the methods described herein is suited. A typical combination of hardware and software may be a general-purpose computer system with a computer program that, when being loaded and executed, controls the computer system such that it carries out the methods described herein.

The present invention may also be embedded in a computer program product, which comprises all the features enabling the implementation of the methods described herein, and which when loaded in a computer system is able to carry out these methods. Computer program in the present context means any expression, in any language, code or notation, of a set of instructions intended to cause a system having an information processing capability to perform a particular function either directly or after either or both of the following: a) conversion to another language, code or notation; b) reproduction in a different material form.

While the present invention has been described with reference to certain embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the scope of the present invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the present invention without departing from its scope. Therefore, it is intended that the present invention not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed,

27

but that the present invention will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing signals, the method comprising: in a mobile device:

receiving radio frequency signals from one or more base stations, wherein:

each of said one or more base stations comprises a plurality of distributed, transceivers; and

each of said plurality of distributed transceivers comprises an independently configurable antenna array for transmitting said radio frequency signals to said mobile device;

generating channel measurements over a plurality of transmit diversity configurations for said received radio frequency signals; and

receiving a position estimate for said mobile device from a location server,

wherein the transmit diversity configurations are determined by said location server, wherein the transmit diversity configurations comprise antenna patterns of said antenna arrays of said distributed transceivers, said transmit diversity configurations being applied to said one or more base stations for said channel measurements for said mobile device and channel measurements at scanned locations in a location scanning region;

wherein said position estimate for said mobile device over said location scanning region utilizes said channel measurements over said plurality of transmit diversity configurations by optimizing a signature function value based on said channel measurements and a set of channel measurements from a database maintained by said location server; and

wherein a weighted sum is utilized to combine values corresponding to measured channels per transmit diversity configurations when optimizing said signature function, wherein the weighted sum utilizes a set of scaling factors to model a relative reliability and contribution of each channel measurement.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said signature function is defined in terms of full channel response, receive signal strength indicator, strongest multipath, or angle of arrival for said channel measurements for said mobile device, and said channel measurements at said scanned locations over said transmit diversity configurations.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said position estimate for said mobile device is updated by said location server based on a resolution of said signature function over said scanned locations in said location scanning region.

4. The method to claim 3, wherein a subset of said transmit diversity configurations and/or a subspace of said location scanning region is selected by said location server based on said resolution of said signature function over said scanned locations in said location scanning region.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said signature function is utilized by said location server to calculate said updated position estimate for said mobile device over said subset of said transmit diversity configurations and/or over said subspace of said location scanning region.

6. The method to of claim 3, wherein said updated position estimate for said mobile device is calculated by said location server, by utilizing a different signature function for said channel measurements for said mobile device and said channel measurements with said scanned locations over said transmit diversity configurations.

28

7. The method of claim 1, wherein optimizing the signature function comprises conducting said optimization over the location scanning region determined by said location server.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising using the position estimate resulting from said optimization of the signature function as a most likelihood location estimate for the mobile device.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the antenna arrays of each base station are arranged at different directions to create a plurality of independent antenna arrays for estimating the location of the mobile device.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving radio frequency signals from one or more base stations comprises receiving signals reflected from one or more reflectors in an environment between said one or more base stations and the mobile device.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving radio frequency signals from one or more base stations comprises receiving signals reflected from one or more high efficiency passive or active reflectors installed in an environment between said one or more base stations and the mobile device.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising calculating values of the signature function for the generated channel measurements against a set of previously collected channel measurements over the location scanning region, wherein the position estimate is identified by finding a location coordinates that minimizes the signature function.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the signature function is selected from a plurality of signature functions based on at least one of a required location accuracy, an availability of antenna arrays, a position acquisition time, a processing power consumption, and multipath environment conditions.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the signature function with a large gradient versus locations in the location region is selected from a plurality of signature functions to provide a low position estimation error.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the signature function corresponds to a full channel response, wherein the signature function is generated by coherently comparing amplitude and phase of channel measurements.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising applying a time-alignment process to said channel measurements during scanning and positioning phases prior to optimizing the signature function.

17. The method of claim 1 further comprising combining a time-alignment process with said optimizing of the signature function value by combining channel measurements during a scanning phase and channel measurements generated by the mobile device.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmit diversity configurations further comprise at least one of a number of transceivers available for each base station, a number of carrier frequencies available for each base station, and phase array coefficients of each base station.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the functionality of said location server is implemented in one or more of said base stations.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the functionality of said location server is implemented in said mobile device.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the functionality of said location server is implemented in a remote location server external to said mobile device and said one or more base stations.

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